

# SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THIS FORTNIGHT



In this fast-paced world, people seldom have time to read the news every day. Fortnight Human rights update is a new INSECOOnline series aimed at disseminating a brief overview of National and International Human rights situation once in every two weeks. The series will be covering severe cases of Human rights violations Nationally and Internationally.

Human rights violations noted this fortnight have been enlisted below:

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### 1. EMIR SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL-THANI OF THE STATE OF QATAR VISITED NEPAL

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, visited Nepal for a two-day visit starting on 23 April, Tuesday. The government declared a public holiday in honor of the emir. During this visit, the Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal held a meeting with the Emir in which eight agreements were signed between the two countries. Additionally, Nepal aimed to finalize a renewed labor pact with Qatar to improve the working conditions of Nepalese migrant workers in the Gulf country. Nepal also decided to gift Qatar with two elephants. The Emir Sheikh returned after his two-day stay on April 24, 2024.

### 2. SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES CONTEMPT OF COURT AGAINST "SIDHAKURA.COM"

The Supreme Court administration has reported a contempt of court case against the news website Sidhakura.com for publishing an audio news stating: EXCLUSIVE STING OPERATION: 'Secret audio' of deals involving Supreme Court judges to dismiss more than 400 corruption cases.

The Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court and Joint Spokesperson Govinda Ghimire, in the report stated that the broadcasted news is misleading and contemptuous. The report has further demanded to remove the audio report from all the social media platforms which are portraying false information against the Court.

### 3. KATHMANDU BECOMES THE MOST POLLUTED CITY AGAIN

Kathmandu still faces severe air pollution maintaining its rank as the most polluted city among the top 10 cities worldwide. Consequently, the residents of Kathmandu and nearby are facing burning sensation in eyes and nostrils due to the poor quality of air these days. According to IQAir on 30 April, the air quality in Kathmandu is unhealthy with AQI of 152 and particulate matter pollution (PM 2.5).

The excessive use of vehicles, construction works in factories releasing unwanted smoke, and the fire in the forests across the country has resulted in the air to get more polluted in Kathmandu. Additionally, the delayed rainfall has worsened the state of the air causing various discomforts to the people of all ages.

### 4. BY-ELECTIONS IN ILAM AND BAJHANG

Group of 16 activists had been staging sit-in in Maitighar, Kathmandu since 25th November 2021 demanding justice for Nankunni Dhobi, By-elections for the House of Representatives in Ilam-2 and in Bajhang for the provincial assembly were conducted on 27 April, 2024. Suhang Nembang, running for the CPN-UML, has been elected to the House of Representatives in Ilam-2. Similarly, Daman Bhandari, also representing the CPN(UML) won in the provincial assembly by-election in Bajhang.

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. **DAM BURST CAUSED 40 OVER DEATHS IN KENYA**

Over 40 people lost their lives in Kenya when a dam burst due to heavy rains and flooding. The Governor of Nakuru County, Kenya Susan Kihika stated that more individuals are still trapped in the mud. The Old Kijabe Dam in Mai Mahiu area of the Great Rift Valley region burst causing water to overflow downstream along with mud, rocks, and uprooted trees. It is reported that the homes and roads were severely affected due to the burst of the dam in Kamuchiri village in western Kenya.

## 2. **URGENCY MOUNTS AS HAMAS RELEASES VIDEO OF ABDUCTED AMERICANS IN GAZA**

Hamas released a video confirming the status of two abductees in Gaza, including U.S. citizen Keith Siegel, who was reportedly taken on October 7 from his home near Gaza. The footage, released by the militant group, features Siegel and another hostage, Omri Miran, expressing their situation and urging the Israeli government to negotiate their release. Additionally, earlier in the week, Hamas shared a video purportedly featuring a statement from another abductee, Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are increasingly concerned about potential arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court amid mounting international pressure over the conflict in Gaza. Efforts by the U.S., Egypt, and Qatar to broker a temporary ceasefire and secure the release of some hostages are ongoing, as Hamas holds an estimated 100 hostages and the remains of around 30 others. Hamas has stated it will only release the remaining hostages with an agreement to end the conflict, a demand rejected by Prime Minister Netanyahu, who insists on continuing the offensive until all hostages are returned and Hamas is dismantled.

## 3. **INDIAN STATE SUSPENDS LICENSE OF 14 PRODUCTS OF POPULAR YOGA GURU**

A regulatory authority in India has suspended the manufacturing licenses for 14 products produced by pharmaceutical companies associated with the country's renowned yoga guru. This recent order represents another setback for Baba Ramdev whose TV shows, yoga cures and traditional medicine offerings for diseases have made him popular in India and other nations. This action comes as a response to the repeated dissemination of misleading advertisements regarding the effectiveness of these products. The manufacturing permits of Ramdev's companies were suspended in an April 15 order by the drug regulator of traditional medicines in northern Uttarakhand state.

(Source: Reuters)

## 4. **NEPAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS LANDSCAPE: INSIGHTS FROM AMNESTY'S APRIL 2024 REPORT**

Amnesty International's report, "The State of the World's Human Rights: April 2024," sheds light on Nepal's human rights challenges. It addresses issues such as excessive force against protesters, restrictions on freedom of expression like the ban on TikTok, and failures to address past conflicts. Additionally, it highlights advancements such as the Supreme Court's ruling on "triple talaq" and interim orders on same-sex marriage registration, alongside persistent gender discrimination and abuses against migrant workers. Despite some progress, systemic problems remain, urging urgent government action.

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